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<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/US98/03811 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 20 March 1998 (20.03.98)  <b>(71) Applicants (for all designated States except US):</b> MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP. [JP/JP]; 2-3, Marunouchi 2-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8310 (JP). UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND [US/US]; Office of Technology Liaison, 4312 Knox Road, College Park, MD 20742 (US).  <b>(72) Inventors; and</b> <b>(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only):</b> ATSUMI, Eiji [JP/JP]; c/o Mitsubishi Electric Corp., Information Technology R & D Center, 5-1-1 Ofuna Kamakura-shi, 247-8501 (JP). FARVARDIN, Nariman [US/US]; 10312 Nolan Drive, Rockville, MD 20850 (US).  <b>(74) Agent:</b> GOLDHUSH, Douglas, H.; Nikaido, Marmelstein, Murray and Oram LLP, Suite 330, Metropolitan Square - "G" Street Lobby, 655 15th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20005-5701 (US).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i>

**(54) Title:** LOSSY/LOSSLESS REGION-OF-INTEREST IMAGE CODING**(57) Abstract**

A method and apparatus for encoding digital image data wherein region of interest can be specified either before the encoding process has begun or during the encoding process (127), such that the priority of the encoder outputs are modified so as to place more emphasis on the region of interest, therefore increasing the speed and/or increasing the fidelity of the reconstructed region of interest. The system, therefore, enables more effective reconstruction of digital images over communication lines (128).

